



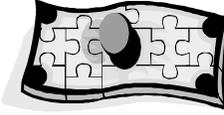
The Arrow

May 2011
Newsletter

The Arrow
Volume 21 Issue 2

2011-2012 Town Budget

By Interim Town Manager Scott Tilton



The preparation of this budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 was certainly a challenge. A challenge made more difficult by the poor economy of the last couple of years and the increases in costs to the town from all levels. The two years leading up to this budget were years in which the town's budget had been cut in order to keep the mill rate the same despite increasing local and school needs. Despite the economy showing signs of improvement, these still remain tough economic times for many. However, regardless of the economic times there are still many reasons to fund the needs of the town in the areas of employee wages, adding to reserve accounts, complying with Federal and State mandates to replace equipment and completing overdue much needed road reconstruction. This proposed budget attempts to address these four areas. It outlines a plan for the future but in order to achieve what needs to be done a slight increase in taxes will result.

First, let's talk about town needs. The Fire Department, by 2013, must have purchased and put into service narrow banded frequency radios. This is a mandate placed on all licensed radio users by the FCC. Also by 2013, the majority of the Fire Departments SCBA Air Tanks need to be replaced in accordance with NFPA Regulations. The air tanks make it possible for fireman to enter a structure to locate victims and effectively fight fires. Town Reserve accounts that could be used for the inevitable replacement of aging Fire/Rescue and Public Works buildings and equipment are underfunded. The reserve account to replace a structurally very old, inefficient and outdated municipal building is not funded at a sufficient level to meet the timeframe set for needed replacement. The Recreation Department needs a bus in order to meet the demands being made by residents using recreation programs. Currently the need for buses exceeds the supply of available buses from all sources. A reserve account to purchase a bus owned by the town is being established to meet this ever increasing need over the next couple of years. Road improvements have fallen behind and have resulted in a noticeable deterioration in road conditions. The increase in the amount budgeted for road reconstruction will allow the residents to drive on safer more comfortable roads and perhaps extend the life of the family car. The final need this budget attempts to meet is to adequately compensate employees. Over the past several years employees have not received pay increases while at the same time experiencing a decrease in health insurance coverage. During this time employees have been able to provide more or the same level of service with no real increase in operating budgets and also achieving savings and returning funds to General Fund Balance. They are in some cases paid less than employees in other towns doing similar work.

Continued on Page 2

Summary of Zoning Changes

Proposed by the Planning Board for Town Meeting

by Tad Redway, Town Planner

As outlined in the last edition of *The Arrow*, the Planning Board has been busy developing a new land use ordinance built from scratch to eventually replace the current patchwork document. However, since the task will take much longer than originally envisioned, the Planning Board has proposed a number of interim revisions to the existing ordinance that will correct some outstanding problems.

ARTICLE 3: *Shall the Town vote to adopt an ordinance entitled "Amendments to the Arundel Zoning Map to designate all of property identified as Tax Map 1, Lot 1A as being within the Business Industrial (BI) zoning district and to revise the Official Zoning Map accordingly"?*

The property owner's land is located at 833 Old Post Road and is bisected by the BI and R3 zone boundary. Since the Residential zoned portion of this 6-acre lot fronts Old Post Road, the Business zoned portion is isolated in the rear of the parcel and is effectively unusable. Even though several residential properties are located across the street from the parcel, the property is surrounded on the remaining boundaries by existing commercial and industrial uses which substantially undermine the residential development value of the property. As such the Planning Board has found that the higher and better use of the land at 833 Old Post Road would be to rezone the entire parcel as Business-Industrial.

ARTICLE 4: *Shall the Town vote to adopt an ordinance entitled "Amendments to the Arundel Land Use Ordinance Section 6.2 Schedule of Land Uses and Section 9.8 Site Plan Review"?*

With the exception of single family homes, the current Land Use Ordinance classifies nearly all other land uses in Arundel as "Conditional Uses". New or expanding conditional uses must be reviewed by the Planning Board and the suitability of that use in that location is measured before the property owner can build. For years, business and property owners have complained that the label of "Conditional Use" is a stigma that fosters uncertainty with lenders and investors, creates unnecessary regulatory hoops, and generally discourages new business development. To provide more investor confidence and erase negative perceptions, the Planning Board has re-classified many business uses in the commercial districts from "conditional" to "permitted" uses. Examples of activities that are now classified as permitted uses include retail stores, personal services, automobile service stations, antique and craft shops, and many others.

The term "Permitted use" means the business can build and operate by right in that district, in accordance with the Land Use Ordinance design standards. To insure that expansions and new construction are in compliance with those existing standards, the

Continued on Page 2



BUDGET Information (Cont)

Let's talk about the numbers. The budgeted expenditures in all departments results in a \$205,804 increase or 13.7%. This overall increase in expenditures represents a substantial commitment to the following areas of need: reconstructing roads \$160,000 or 47%, funding reserve accounts in accordance with replacement schedules \$142,165 or 317%, replacement of outdated Fire Department radios, SCBA tanks and miscellaneous equipment \$27,882 or 120% and employee salaries \$10,213.

The proposed increase in expenditures is partially offset by an overall increase in revenues from all sources of \$170,646 or 6.9%. A major source of revenue being used includes \$450,000 in undesignated fund balance an increase of 81% over last year. The town will still maintain an estimated surplus Undesignated Fund Balance of \$573,964 which will be increased after June 30, 2011. The remaining balance is in addition to the 20% required by town policy to cover town expenses during an emergency.

While the overall budget increased some department operating budgets actually decreased or stayed the same. The decreases were in General Government (\$4,852); Town Hall Administration (\$16,633); Civil Services (\$4,785); and the Town Garage (\$20,523). The Volunteer Fireman Call Pay and the Contract Deputy Program budgets stayed the same. The departments that had an increase in their budget were the Fire-Rescue Department \$37,475 including \$27,882 in required mandated equipment replacement mentioned previously; Miscellaneous Services \$4,785; and General Assistance \$6,991 primarily due to the increased request for assistance. New funds in the amount of \$1,500 are being requested to maintain the Eastern Trail. The cost to operate the Transfer Station increased \$16,475 primarily as a result of an increase in the contracted price from the vendor. The Arundel Recreation Department budget request increased \$8,428 due primarily to the increase in hours, from 36 to 40 hours, being worked by the Recreation Director and part time staff. The Recreation Department has estimated it will bring in \$103,190 in revenues to the town to decrease taxes. The cost to operate the 24/7 Per Diem Rescue program increased by \$9,710, primarily due to higher insurance costs and a 3% increase in Paramedic pay. The Rescue service has estimated it will bring in \$85,000 in revenues to the town to decrease taxes. The request from the Kennebunk Free Library increased \$225.

How do all the above numbers and percents affect your tax bill? The Selectmen and the Budget Board decided that the town needed to take immediate action in the four areas discussed previously and determined to be a priority. The municipal portion of the budget being presented to the voters at Town Meeting represents a \$76 per year increase to the average taxpayer's bill based on a home valued at \$200,000. This increase comes after three years of budgets in which the mil rate stayed the same but the municipal portion of the budget was reduced in order to absorb increased costs and a lack of funding for the future. This could not continue and therefore it was decided to do what was needed to move the town forward. This was a decision that was not taken lightly by elected officials and department heads.

LUO Amendment Information (Cont)

Planning Board the proposed a new Section 9.8 Site Plan Review process. Highlights of the site plan section include greater delegation of review responsibilities to Town staff (at a time and cost savings to applicants), expanded exemptions lists, significantly higher triggers for Planning Board review, a 60 day maximum period for Planning Board review, and a new surety mechanism called a Tri-Part agreement that requires no Letters of Credit or Bonds.

Together the proposed new Sections 6.2 and 9.8 will reduce regulatory ambiguity, increase investor confidence, and streamline permitting processes.

ARTICLE 5: *Shall the Town vote to adopt an ordinance entitled "Amendments to the Arundel Land Use Ordinance Section 9.7.B. 1, Section 9.7.D and Section 9.7.F Conditional Uses"?*

Not all conditional uses in Warrant Article # 4 were re-classified as permitted uses. Therefore it is necessary to retain the current Conditional Use permit process. However, the presence of a new site plan permit process also means that changes have to be made to Section 9.7 of the Land Use Ordinance to eliminate conflicts between the two sections. Some of these changes involved eliminating activities like earth moving that are now site plan activities, private way reviews which are a separate review process under the existing Section 7.7.B, and clarification on expansions of conditional uses. The Planning Board also took the opportunity to redesign and clarify the Conditional Use public hearing and abutter notification process thereby eliminating those ordinance ambiguities that have long befuddled applicants, abutters, and even the Board.

ARTICLE 6: *Shall the Town vote to adopt an ordinance entitled "Amendments to the Arundel Land Use Ordinance Section 2.2 Definitions to add and amend several land use definitions and add Section 7.12.A.14 to permit temporary off-premise signage for farm stands?"*

The Planning Board is proposing four new or revised definitions to Section 2.2. Automobile service stations will now be allowed to sell food and sundries along with gasoline to the public, in concurrence with the standard business model for contemporary convenience stores. The Board also establishes a definition of a golf course. Off premises signs for temporary farm stands are defined and the Planning Board has also provided a definition for a motor freight business under the term "Truck Terminals". Currently the ordinance does not permit truck freight businesses even though we have several in Town. The proposed new 6.2 Land Use Schedule (Article 4) will permit Truck Terminals in the BI district.

The proposed section 7.12.A.14 corrects a long standing injustice in which the Ordinance prohibits Arundel's farm stands from erecting temporary signs off their premises. Ironically, the Maine billboard act contains an exemption permitting temporary off-premise signage for Maine's farm stands, but Arundel has never adopted this exception. With the Article 6 amendment, farm stands will now be able to erect up to four signs off-site premises as long as the owner's permission is granted in writing and the signs are located outside of the State Highway right-of-way.



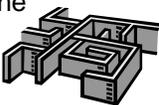
Rec Prepares for Summer Fun!

by Jenn Dumas, Parks & Rec Director

The school year is winding down which means summer is approaching quickly and the Rec office is busy getting ready for lots of fun in the sun. We are really hoping that all this dreary spring rain means that the sun will shine all summer! Upcoming trips & programs...

Wednesday, June 8, 2011 Half-Day Field Trip:

Join us for an afternoon of mini-golfing and the Human Maze at Wonder Mountain in Wells! Pick up in MLD gym or playground 4:00-5:30pm. Bring snacks, refillable water bottle, sneakers, appropriate clothing for the day's weather forecast. Fee \$20pp. Max 40. Registration Deadline: 6/2/2011



After School Program: The current May 2011 "Discovery" session will be the last of this school year, and it will run through the week of May 30. Following that, our traditional After School program will continue through the last day of school, which is Tuesday, 6/14/2011, at a rate of \$10 per day between the hours of 3:00-5:30pm. Register by Thursday of the week prior to attendance. In our After School program, children are provided with a snack & drink, and then participate in fun games & activities.

Summer Rec for children entering grades K-5 in the fall: As of May 23, we still have limited space in the K-5th grade Summer Rec program for Arundel residents only. We have regular day (8am-4pm) and extended day (7am-5pm) op-

tions. Fees for 8 weeks, regular day, are \$525 per child. 4 weeks, regular day \$335 (choose either 6/20-7/15 OR 7/18-8/12), or choose any combination of weeks at our 1-week rate of \$125/week. Extended day fees are \$15 per week in addition to regular day fees.

Middle School Summer Trips for children entering grades 6-8 in the fall: From now until June 2, we have a discounted pre-season payment option of \$575 for families with children that plan to attend all summer. From June 3 going forward, we will accept registrations throughout the summer by Thursday of the week prior to attendance, as space allows. Please note that some of our trips will fill to maximum capacity early (camping trips, Saco River tubing trip & others). Sign up sooner rather than later to avoid missing out. Visit the town website at <http://arundelmaine.org> and go to the main Recreation Department page, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the 2011 Middle School Summer Trips Tentative Trip Schedule, if you'd like to view our plans for the summer.

Discount Passes to Funtown/Splashtown and Water Country available at the town hall Tax Collector's desk. Combo passes for Funtown/Splashtown \$26.00. Water Country \$29.00. Passes good for 48" & taller.

Registration forms are available on the town website (main Recreation Department page) www.arundelmaine.org Registrations are accepted at ML Day School (through your child's backpack, in an envelope that says "Arundel Rec"), or at the Town Hall. Questions? Email arundel-rec@roadrunner.com or call 286-9241.



Arundel Board & Committee Meeting Schedules

Regular meeting of Arundel Boards and Committees are listed on the Town's Website at :

www.arundelmaine.org on the Town Calendar as well as links to copies of the agendas and approved minutes. Currently the following Boards and Committees that meet on a regular basis are:

Selectmen: 2nd & 4th Mondays, 7pm at the MLD Library

Planning Board: 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7 pm, at MLD Library

Budget Board: 1st Tuesday at 7 pm at the MLD Library

Recreation Committee: As needed at the MLD Rec office.

RSU #21 Board: 1st & 3rd Mondays at 7 pm. Meeting location can be found on their web site at www.rsu21.net

Strategic Planning Committee: 3rd Wednesday, 7 pm at the MLD Library.

All meetings are open to the public except for business which must be conducted in executive sessions. FMI call 985-4201

Roads Update

By Roger Taschereau, APW Director

The winter of 2010-2011 was an old fashioned Maine winter with lots of snow and kept a firm grip on us until April. We logged 33 different calls for snow and ice and used the following materials:

- 1356 Yards of Sand
- 481 Tons of Salt
- 970 Gallons of Liquid Calcium



We have 2 roads left to pave from last year's budget which are the River Road from the Kennebunkport town line to and including the Durrell's Bridge Road.

This year's projects include Brimstone Road and both end sections of the Old Post Road. Two large culverts are scheduled to be relined as well.

AHS Memorial Day Ceremony

The AHS is pleased to announce that on Sunday, May 29, at 11 am will be having the first Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in front of the Fire Station on Limerick Road. Please make it a point to take an hour out of your day to honor the sacrifices of our many veterans.

The Historical Society is still adding Arundel Veterans to it's Honor Roll. Any additional information that you can provide is welcome.



Municipal Election

June 14th

8am to 8 pm at Arundel Fire Station

Voters will cast a secret ballot to elect:

one (1) Selectman

one (1) RSU Director

two (2) Budget Board members *(No candidates submitted nomination papers for these Budget Board positions. A write-in candidate must have a minimum of 25 votes to be elected.)*

Absentee voting is available. FMI contact the Town office at 985-4201.



Annual Town Meeting

June 15th

7 p.m. at the MLD School Gym

This is the open town meeting portion to vote on the Town Budget. The vote is a majority vote by a show of hands and a voter must be present to vote.

Sample

Town of Arundel
Municipal Election
June 14, 2011

Sample

Selectmen (Vote for 1- 3 year term)

Thomas Danylik

Michael Drew

RSU #21 Director (Vote for 1 - 3 year term)

Leia Lowery

Diane Robbins

Budget Board (Vote for 2 - 3 year terms)

No Candidates Submitted Nomination Papers



A copy of the Town Meeting Warrant and Sample Ballot will be available online at www.arundelmaine.org

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Inside this Issue:	
Budget Update	Pg 1 & 2
Ordinance Updates	Pg 1 & 2
Summer Rec Programs	Pg 3
AHS Ceremony	Pg 3
Road Work Update	Pg 3
Meeting Schedules	Pg 3
Annual Town Elections and Meeting Info	Pg 4



Visit the Town's WEBSITE at www.arundelmaine.org
State of Maine Online services at <http://www.state.me.us/>